

opinion was originally given or in the FEDERAL REGISTER, and will be placed on public display as part of the file on the matter in the office of the Division of Dockets Management. The Division of Dockets Management shall maintain a separate chronological index of all advisory opinions filed. The index will specify the date of the request for the advisory opinion, the date of the opinion, and identification of the appropriate file.

(h) Action undertaken or completed in conformity with an advisory opinion which has subsequently been amended or revoked is acceptable to FDA unless the Commissioner determines that substantial public interest considerations preclude continued acceptance. Whenever possible, an amended or revoked advisory opinion will state when action previously undertaken or completed does not remain acceptable, and any transition period that may be applicable.

(i) An interested person may submit written comments on an advisory opinion or modified advisory opinion. Four copies of any comments are to be sent to the Division of Dockets Management for inclusion in the public file on the advisory opinion. Individuals may submit only one copy. Comments will be considered in determining whether further modification of an advisory opinion is warranted.

(j) An advisory opinion may be used in administrative or court proceedings to illustrate acceptable and unacceptable procedures or standards, but not as a legal requirement.

(k) A statement made or advice provided by an FDA employee constitutes an advisory opinion only if it is issued in writing under this section. A statement or advice given by an FDA employee orally, or given in writing but not under this section or §10.90, is an informal communication that represents the best judgment of that employee at that time but does not constitute an advisory opinion, does not necessarily represent the formal position of FDA, and does not bind or otherwise obligate or commit the agency to the views expressed.

[44 FR 22323, Apr. 13, 1979, as amended at 46 FR 8455, Jan. 27, 1981; 59 FR 14364, Mar. 28, 1994; 65 FR 56477, Sept. 19, 2000]

#### **§ 10.90 Food and Drug Administration regulations, recommendations, and agreements.**

(a) *Regulations.* FDA regulations are promulgated in the FEDERAL REGISTER under §10.40 or §10.50 and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations. Regulations may contain provisions that will be enforced as legal requirements, or which are intended only as guidelines and recommendations, or both. The dissemination of draft notices and regulations is subject to §10.80.

(b) [Reserved]

(c) *Recommendations.* In addition to the guidelines subject to paragraph (b) of this section, FDA often formulates and disseminates recommendations about matters which are authorized by, but do not involve direct regulatory action under, the laws administered by the Commissioner, e.g., model State and local ordinances, or personnel practices for reducing radiation exposure, issued under 42 U.S.C. 243 and 263d(b). These recommendations may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, be handled under the procedures established in paragraph (b) of this section, except that the recommendations will be included in a separate public file of recommendations established by the Division of Dockets Management and will be separated from the guidelines in the notice of availability published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, or be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER as regulations under paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) *Agreements.* Formal agreements, memoranda of understanding, or other similar written documents executed by FDA and another person will be included in the public file on agreements established by the Freedom of Information Staff (HFI-35) under §20.108. A document not included in the public file is deemed to be rescinded and has no force or effect whatever.

[44 FR 22323, Apr. 13, 1979, as amended at 54 FR 9035, Mar. 3, 1989; 65 FR 56477, Sept. 19, 2000]

#### **§ 10.95 Participation in outside standard-setting activities.**

(a) *General.* This section applies to participation by FDA employees in standard-setting activities outside the

agency. Standard-setting activities include matters such as the development of performance characteristics, testing methodology, manufacturing practices, product standards, scientific protocols, compliance criteria, ingredient specifications, labeling, or other technical or policy criteria. FDA encourages employee participation in outside standard-setting activities that are in the public interest.

(b) *Standard-setting activities by other Federal Government agencies.* (1) An FDA employee may participate in these activities after approval of the activity under procedures specified in the current agency Staff Manual Guide.

(2) Approval forms and all pertinent background information describing the activity will be included in the public file on standard-setting activities established by the Freedom of Information Staff.

(3) If a member of the public is invited by FDA to present views to, or to accompany, the FDA employee at a meeting, the invitations will be extended to a representative sampling of the public, including consumer groups, industry associations, professional societies, and academic institutions.

(4) An FDA employee appointed as the liaison representative to an activity shall refer all requests for information about or participation in the activity to the group or organization responsible for the activity.

(c) *Standard-setting activities by State and local government agencies and by United Nations organizations and other international organizations and foreign governments pursuant to treaty.* (1) An FDA employee may participate in these activities after approval of the activity under procedures specified in the current agency Staff Manual Guide.

(2) Approval forms and all pertinent background information describing the activity will be included in the public file on standard-setting activities established by the Freedom of Information Staff (HFI-35).

(3) The availability for public disclosure of records relating to the activity will be governed by part 20.

(4) If a member of the public is invited by FDA to present views to, or to accompany, the FDA employee at a

meeting, the invitation will be extended to a representative sampling of the public, including consumer groups, industry associations, professional societies, and academic institutions.

(5) An FDA employee appointed as the liaison representative to an activity shall refer all requests for information about or participation in the activity to the group or organization responsible for the activity.

(d) *Standard-setting activities by private groups and organizations.* (1) An FDA employee may engage in these activities after approval of the activity under procedures specified in the current agency Staff Manual Guide. A request for official participation must be made by the group or organization in writing, must describe the scope of the activity, and must demonstrate that the minimum standards set out in paragraph (d)(5) of this section are met. Except as provided in paragraph (d)(7) of this section, a request that is granted will be the subject of a letter from the Commissioner or the center director to the organization stating—

(i) Whether participation by the individual will be as a voting or nonvoting liaison representative;

(ii) That participation by the individual does not connote FDA agreement with, or endorsement of, any decisions reached; and

(iii) That participation by the individual precludes service as the deciding official on the standard involved if it should later come before FDA. The deciding official is the person who signs a document ruling upon the standard.

(2) The letter requesting official FDA participation, the approval form, and the Commissioner's or center director's letter, together with all pertinent background information describing the activities involved, will be included in the public file on standard-setting activities established by the Freedom of Information Staff (HFI-35).

(3) The availability for public disclosure of records relating to the activities will be governed by part 20.

(4) An FDA employee appointed as the liaison representative to an activity shall refer all requests for information about or participation in the activity to the group or organization responsible for the activity.

(5) The following minimum standards apply to an outside private standard-setting activity in which FDA employees participate:

(i) The activity will be based upon consideration of sound scientific and technological information, will permit revision on the basis of new information, and will be designed to protect the public against unsafe, ineffective, or deceptive products or practices.

(ii) The activity and resulting standards will not be designed for the economic benefit of any company, group, or organization, will not be used for such antitrust violations as fixing prices or hindering competition, and will not involve establishment of certification or specific approval of individual products or services.

(iii) The group or organization responsible for the standard-setting activity must have a procedure by which an interested person will have an opportunity to provide information and views on the activity and standards involved, without the payment of fees, and the information and views will be considered. How this is accomplished, including whether the presentation will be in person or in writing, will be decided by the group or organization responsible for the activity.

(6) Membership of an FDA employee in an organization that also conducts a standard-setting activity does not invoke the provisions of this section unless the employee participates in the standard-setting activity. Participation in a standard-setting activity is subject to this section.

(7) The Commissioner may determine in writing that, because direct involvement by FDA in a particular standard-setting activity is in the public interest and will promote the objectives of the act and the agency, the participation is exempt from the requirements of paragraph (d)(1) (ii) and/or (iii) of this section. This determination will be included in the public file on standard-setting activities established by the Freedom of Information Staff and in any relevant administrative file. The activity may include the establishment and validation of analytical methods for regulatory use, drafting uniform laws and regulations, and the development of recommendations concerning

public health and preventive medicine practices by national and international organizations.

(8) Because of the close daily cooperation between FDA and the associations of State and local government officials listed below in this paragraph, and the large number of agency employees who are members of or work with these associations, participation in the activities of these associations is exempt from paragraphs (d)(1) through (7) of this section, except that a list of the committees and other groups of these associations will be included in the public file on standard-setting activities established by the Freedom of Information Staff (HFI-35):

(i) American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians (AAFHV).

(ii) American Public Health Association (APHA).

(iii) Association of American Feed Control Officials, Inc. (AAFCO).

(iv) Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO).

(v) AOAC INTERNATIONAL (AOAC).

(vi) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

(vii) Conference for Food Protection (CFP).

(viii) Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers (COSHEM).

(ix) Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD).

(x) International Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitation, Inc. (IAMFES).

(xi) Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference (ISSC).

(xii) National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP).

(xiii) National Association of Departments of Agriculture (NADA).

(xiv) National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments (NCIMS).

(xv) National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators (NCLEHA).

(xvi) National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWW).

(xvii) National Environmental Health Association (NEHA).

(xviii) National Society of Professional Sanitarians (NSPS).

[44 FR 22323, Apr. 13, 1979, as amended at 46 FR 8455, Jan. 27, 1981; 52 FR 35064, Sept. 17, 1987; 54 FR 9035, Mar. 3, 1989; 70 FR 40880, July 15, 2005; 70 FR 67651, Nov. 8, 2005]